2174

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Chee H. Chew et al.	Examiner:	Kristine Kincaid
Serial No.:	09/608,705	Group Art Unit:	2174
Filed:	June 30, 2000	Docket:	40062.63US01/12881.2
Due Date:	April 22, 2003		
Title:	METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR USER SESSIONS ON PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES		

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By: Tracy Gutscher
Name: Tracy Gutscher

Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

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#6 SC 5/20/03

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By: Tracy Gutscher
Name: Tracy Gutscher

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed January 22, 2003, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and advancement of the application.

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 13-23 are rejected. Claims 7, 11 and 12 are objected to. No new matter has been added.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16-19 and 21-23 are rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,490,624 issued to *Sampson et al.*

Claim 1 teaches "a method for determining a starting point for an application when a new user session is started..." The method includes a step of: "ending the current user session and starting the new user session for the application at the starting point when the application is selected."

Sampson et al. does not disclose starting a new user session for the application at the starting point when the application is selected. Instead *Sampson et al.* recites, "[i]f a client fails to contact...the system for longer than the idle timeout value, the client is logged out and must re-authenticate itself in order to access resources [of the system]..." (*Sampson et al.*, column 8, lines 54-58). Logging out the client and requiring the client to re-authenticate to gain access to the system is outside the scope of what is claimed in applicants' claim 1. At least in part since *Sampson et al.* recites nothing about starting a new user session for the application at the starting point when the application is selected, the cited reference does not anticipate or make obvious the invention as claimed in claim 1.

Additionally, although independent claim 8 is directed to a method and independent claim 17 is directed to a computer readable medium, both independent claims include substantially the same limitations of independent claim 1, albeit in different ways. Therefore, independent claims 8 and 17 are allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1.

Claim 2 teaches that "each application running on the computing device is associated with a separate current user session and a separate interval of time." Further referring to the specification, "[t]he term "user session" [is] directed to a variable interval of time that is determined by how frequently a device is activated and/or an application is selected." (page 6, lines 5-6)

Sampson et al. does not disclose that each application is associated with a separate current user session and a separate interval of time. Instead, *Sampson et al.* recites, "each...[s]erver is associated with one or more session management servers." (*Sampson et al.*, column 8, line 49-51). Clearly, opening multiple user sessions that are managed by a group of different session managers is substantially different than what is claimed in applicants' claim 2. Thus, at least because *Sampson et al.* recites nothing of a separate current user session and a separate interval of time associated with each application, this reference cannot anticipate or make obvious the invention as claimed in claim 2.

Claim 4 teaches that "the interval of time is editable for each application." Also, claim 14 teaches that "the selected view is editable for each application." Further referring to the specification, the "interval associated with a current user session for an application may be selectable." (page 10, line 10)

Sampson et al. does not disclose that an interval of time is editable for each application. Instead, *Sampson et al.* recites, "An administrator may select a pre-defined idle timeout value that is associated with a user." (*Sampson et al.*, column 8, lines 53-54). The timeout value selected is associated with a user not with a current user session of an application. Thus, at least because *Sampson et al.* discloses nothing regarding an editable interval of time for each application, this reference does not teach or suggest the claimed invention as taught by claims 4 and 14.

Claim 5 teaches, "determining an amount of time between a last transition of the switch to an off state and a current transition of the switch to the on state; comparing another interval of time [associated with a current user session for the switch] to the determined amount of time...; and when the determined amount of time is greater then the other interval of time...ending the current user session for the application and starting a new user session for the switch..."

Further referring to the specification, "when the amount of time since the last transition to the "on" state is determined to be greater than the predetermined interval of inactivity for the switch's current user session...the current user sessions for each of the applications and the switch are terminated, and a new user session is started for the switch. Thus, when an application is selected, the application is displayed in a default state and a new user session is started for the application." (page 9, lines 5-11)

Sampson et al. does not disclose terminating a current user session and beginning a new user session when the switch is deactivated for longer than a predetermined interval of inactivity. Instead, *Sampson et al.* states, "The administrator may select a general timeout value. The general timeout value is a pre-determined period of time, after which the client is forced to log out and must re-authenticate itself, regardless of the number of times the client has interacted with a protected server or other element of the system." (*Sampson et al.*, column 8, lines 60-65). At least in part since *Sampson et al.* recites nothing about ending a user session and beginning a new user session when the switch is deactivated for a predetermined interval, the cited reference does not anticipate or make obvious the invention as claimed in claim 5.

Additionally, although claims 6 and 8 are directed to a method, claim 18 is directed to a computer readable medium, and claim 19 is directed to a system, all four claims include substantially the same limitations of claim 5, albeit in different ways. Therefore, claims 6, 8, 18 and 19 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 5.

Claim 9 teach "generating a time stamp for each interaction with each application, each time stamp being employed to determine the amount of time since the last interaction; and generating another time stamp for each transition of the switch between the on state and the off state, each other time stamp being employed to determine the amount of time since the last operation of the switch."

Sampson et al. does not teach generating time stamps that are employed to determine the amount of time since the last application interaction or the last operation of the switch. *Sampson et al.* recites, "The Logging Service receives information about the actions taken by the Session Managers and records such information in one or more logs. If a session is removed from memory, an administrator can determine what happened to the session information by [reviewing] the logs." (*Sampson et al.*, column 9, lines 61-66). Thus, at least because *Sampson et al.* recites nothing about the generation of time stamps, this reference cannot anticipate or make obvious the invention as claimed in claim 9.

Additionally, although claim 22 is directed to a system, claim 22 includes substantially the same limitations of claim 9. Therefore, claim 22 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 9.

Claim 13 teaches, "each application is associated with a separate selected view." Further referring to the specification, "a determination is made whether the calendar day view is selected as the default state for the calendar application. If true,...the selected day view default state for the calendar application is displayed by the small computing device." (page 10, lines 20-24)

Sampson et al. does not teach each application associated with a separate selected view. Instead, *Sampson et al.* recites, "Logging Service is called to log exceptions; session creation; session revocation; session revocation by administrator; and session revocation due to idle timeout. Each log comprises a plurality of records. Each log record includes a session identifier and information identifying the client that caused the logged event." (*Sampson et al.*, column 9, lines 66-67, and column 10, lines 1-4). Thus, at least because *Sampson et al.* discloses nothing about a separate selected view associated with each application, this reference does not teach or suggest the claimed invention as taught by claim 13.

Claim 16 teaches, "the switch is a function switch for the small computing device." *Sampson et al.* does not disclose a switch that is a function switch for a small computing device. Instead *Sampson et al.* recites, "[t]he session management servers implement three major

functions." (*Sampson et al.*, column 8, lines 50-51) The three major functions are idle timeout, general timeout, and revocation. None of the functions discuss a function switch for a small computing device. Thus, *Sampson et al.* does not anticipate or make obvious the invention as claimed in claim 16. Additionally, although claim 21 is directed to a system, claim 21 includes substantially the same limitations of claim 16. Therefore, claim 21 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 16.

Claim 19 teaches, "when the other amount of time is greater than the other interval of time associated with the current user session for the switch, ending each current user session for each application and starting a new user session for the switch..." Further referring to the specification, "when the amount of time since the last transition to the "on" state is determined to be greater than the predetermined interval of inactivity for the switch's current user session...the current user sessions for each of the applications and the switch are terminated. Thus, when an application is selected, the application is displayed in a default state and a new user session is started for the application." (page 9, lines 5-11)

Sampson et al. does not teach terminating a current user session for each application and beginning a new user session for the switch when the amount of time since the last switch activation is greater than a predetermined interval of inactivity. Instead, *Sampson et al.* recites, "[e]ach Session Manager can interact with one or more sets of session information." (*Sampson et al.*, column 9, lines 27-28). Thus, at least in part since *Sampson et al.* recites nothing about terminating a current user session for each application and beginning a new user session for the switch, the cited reference does not anticipate or make obvious the invention as claimed in claim 19. Additionally, although claim 23 is directed to actions performed by a client, claim 23 includes substantially the same limitations of claim 19. Therefore, claim 23 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 19.

Claim 23 teaches, "determining an amount of time since a last selection of an application running on the computing device; [and] when a switch for the computing device is transitioned to an on state, determining another amount of time representing a difference between a last transition of the switch to an off state and the current transition of the switch to the on state..."

Sampson et al. does not disclose determining a time interval when an application was last selected or time interval between on and off states of a switch. Instead, *Sampson et al.* recites, "[i]f a client fails to contact any Protected Server in the system for longer than the idle timeout

value, the client is logged out and must re-authenticate itself in order to access resources that are protected by any Access Server." (*Sampson et al.*, column 8, lines 54-59). Thus, at least because *Sampson et al.* discloses nothing about determining time intervals when an application was last selected or between switch activations, this reference cannot anticipate or make obvious the invention as claimed in claim 23.

Claim 23 further teaches "ending the current user session and starting a new user session for the application when the application is selected..." *Sampson et al.* does not teach ending a user session and starting a different session upon application selection. *Sampson et al.* recites, "[t]he general timeout value is a pre-determined amount of time, after which the client is forced to log out and must re-authenticate itself, regardless of the number of times the client has interacted with a protected server or other element of the system." (*Sampson et al.*, column 8, lines 61-65). Thus, at least because *Sampson et al.* discloses nothing about ending and starting user sessions, this reference does not teach or suggest the claimed invention as taught in claim 23.

For at least the reasons discussed above, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16-19 and 21-23 are not anticipated by or made obvious in view of *Sampson et al.* and are, therefore, allowable. Furthermore, claims 2-6, 9, 13, 14, 16, 18, 21 and 22 are allowable since they depend on valid base claims.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 15 and 20 are rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Sampson et al.* in view of United States Patent No. 6,480,727 issued to *Gerdisch*. Claim 15 teaches "the switch is a power switch for the small computing device." Similarly, Claim 20 teaches "the switch controls the power for the computing device." *Gerdisch* does not teach a power switch. *Gerdisch* recites "a power failure flag which is set when line power is not available and clear otherwise." (column 2, lines 2-3) Thus, *Gerdisch* does not make obvious the invention as claimed in claims 15 and 20.

Claim 10 is rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Sampson et al.* in view of United States Patent No. 6,430,687 issued to *Aguilar et al.* Claim 10 teaches "associating each application with a separate priority value; and employing each

separate priority value to determine when to stop running each application on the small computing device during a period of inactivity."

Aguilar et al. does not teach determining when to stop running an application based on an associated separate priority value when the computing device is inactive. *Aguilar et al.* recites "assigning this condition a relatively low priority since the network client was in a state of inactivity when the power failure occurred...[and] restoring network client to its last known power mode such that the user of network client, upon returning to the machine, may be well unaware that the power failure occurred." (column 9, lines 43-56) *Aguilar et al.* only refers to power failure and not the multiple applications and priority values of claim 10. Thus, *Aguilar et al.* does not make obvious the invention as claimed in claim 10.

Even if *Gerdisch* arguably did disclose a power switch and *Aguilar et al.* arguably did disclose determining when to stop running an application based on priority values, *Sampson et al.* does not include any motivation to combine *Gerdisch* or *Aguilar et al.* with *Sampson et al.* Since *Sampson et al.* does not suggest or teach a power switch or determining when to stop running an application based on priority values, there is no guidance as to how to modify *Sampson et al.* for the new purpose. Moreover, the addition of a power switch along with multiple applications and associated priority values changes the principle of operation of *Sampson et al.* The combination of *Sampson et al.* with either *Aguilar et al.* or *Gerdisch* is impermissible because it uses hindsight reconstruction, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 10, 15 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Objection of Claims

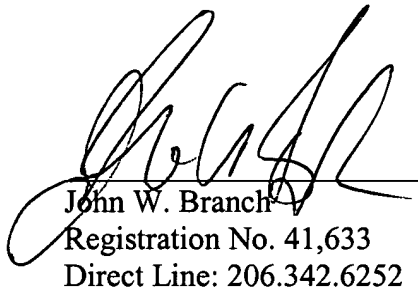
Claims 7, 11 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed above, claims 1 and 8 are not anticipated by or made obvious in view of *Sampson et al.* Thus, Claims 7, 11 and 12 are allowable since they depend on valid base claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



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